

**Maine Division Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
Zoom Call
January 21, 2021**

Approved 3/18/21

Present on Call: Shawn Bugbee, Kyle Burdick, Tom Coleman, Tony Guay, Kris Hoffmann, Logan Johnson, Maggie Mansfield, Ashley Martone, Jake Metzler, Jason McLellan, Carol Redelsheimer, Nicole Rogers, and Cullen Utermark

Absent: Laura Audibert and Adam Daigneault

Nicole Rogers called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Nicole pointed out the Anti-Trust statement written on the agenda.

2020 Meeting Minutes

There was not a quorum of last year's executive committee present, but those on the call agreed that the minutes were fine as presented.

Introductions

Each person on the call introduced themselves and identified the role they were taking on within the committee, whether incoming or outgoing.

Communications Chair Report

Maggie acknowledged that Tony Filauro did a great job as the previous communications chair. As the new chair, she would like to explore some deeper topics for the News Quarterly, such as the return of native land to the Penobscot Nation, and other issues along those lines. She would appreciate ideas from the committee members of what they would like to see in the upcoming Quarterly. Maggie will send an updated email address to the committee so they may be able to send her ideas.

Division Manager Report

Logan reported that he has updated the Maine chapter's page on the NESAF website, and that he is happy to work with Maggie on ideas for posts to the website. He would like committee members to feel free to reach out to him, as his job is to support the committee and their goals.

Treasurer's Report

Jake sent out the Financial Report – containing the Budget Variance Report and Statement of Financial Position via email prior to this meeting.

Jake reported that given the COVID-19 pandemic, activity over the last year was minimal and looking ahead it will be hard to predict how much income and expenses we'll incur because of the uncertainty of field meetings and fall meeting. There is \$1,575 left over from the Adopt-A-Student fund. How this money is used is designated by the executive committee. General consensus was that the money could be used to cover registration costs for students who would like to attend the virtual NESAF annual meeting in March or to cover some of the costs to send one or two students to the National SAF convention this fall (which is still scheduled to be held in-person at this time). Ashley and Tony noted that an in-person event would be preferable to a virtual one, as there is more interest among students for that type of event.

Tony put out an open request for anyone to host an in-person event during the Spring Semester in order to keep students engaged with the profession. You can reach out to Tony with any ideas. Tony will check the university restrictions due to Covid-19 and report back.

Carol made a motion to set aside \$200 for registration fees for NESAF in March for University of Maine at Orono and Fort Kent students. Kyle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Tony and Nicole will begin collecting names of students that would like to attend the NESAF meeting.

Jake reported that traditionally, the committee budgeted each year for a loss, but the budget usually came in positive due to conservative estimates of revenue. He also noted that there has not been much revenue this fiscal year so far, as most of the fall meeting registrations come in during the previous fiscal year. Despite that we are in a strong financial position with nearly \$5,000 in our accounts.

Carole made a motion to approve the budget as shared. Kyle seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

NESAF 2022

The Yankee Division will be hosting the 2021 NESAF Annual Meeting this March. Maine will host the event in 2022. Some leg-work has already begun, as a few venues have been scouted in the Portland area, including Holiday Inn by the Bay, Sheraton at Sable Oaks, and the Hilton Double Tree.

This will be a combined meeting with the Northeastern Forest Pest Council, Maine Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and the Eastern White Pine Symposium, which will be sponsored by the Eastern White Pine Management Institute, a collaboration among UMaine, UNH, and UMass.

A committee separate from the MESAF Executive Committee will need to be formed to coordinate, organize, and plan the Annual Meeting. We should start looking for volunteers, by placing a notice on the website, or emailing volunteers, and checking with student members. We will discuss this further at our March meeting.

Summer Field Tours

The reviews from the 2020 field tours have been sent out. Some thought has already gone into the field tours for 2021.

- Cullen would like to lead a tour on the operational use of UAVs on the ground, or he could present it virtually. This tour is planned for June.
- Shawn would like to conduct a tour in conjunction with the CFRU on the Maine Adaptive Silviculture Network (MASN) site on Seven Islands managed land. This tour is planned for August.
- Jason would like to hold a tour on Baskahegan lands. This tour is planned for July.

A more specific tour topic, schedule, and list of logistical needs should be ready by our March meeting. Logan will need to have all of the information for each tour six weeks prior to the tour date. Members at Large are encouraged to reach out if they need any help.

MESAF Fall Meeting 2021

Everyone should start thinking about topics. The more ideas the better. A list of ideas gathered from the 2020 fall meeting has been emailed to the committee.

Virtual Engagement

MESAF would like to organize virtual events for its members, for credits or to simply get together. Some ideas were shared:

- *Forest Proud* materials
- Podcasts – from MDIFW or Northern Logger – could place links on the website
- “Happy Hour” Zoom meeting – for those just missing interaction with colleagues
- Modified virtual quiz bowl
- Hardwood decline / forest health webinar

The membership can be asked what they would like to see via the chair letter, which will be sent out soon. The goal is to have a concrete plan to send out to the membership by the March meeting. It was also noted that the Members at Large could plan 2+ webinars/virtual engagement events in lieu of a traditional field tour.

MESAF Document Storage

There was some discussion of a common location where people can access documents relevant to MESAF business. After some discussion about Dropbox and Google Drive, Nicole directed Logan to further investigate and create a MESAF Google Drive.

Forestry Awareness Chair

Laura Audibert currently holds the chair position. The MESAF executive committee may want to take this opportunity to re-evaluate this position. It might be expanded in focus, or we can see how it coincides with the Communications Chair position.

Upcoming Meetings

The MESAF executive committee will meet at the following times:

- March 18, 2021 8:00am-10:00am
- May 20, 2021 8:00am-10:00am
- July 15, 2021 8:00am-10:00am

For the next meeting, members should think about goals they would like to see this committee achieve in the coming year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Kristen Hoffmann, Secretary